



ARNOLD'S NEWS

News from Corsham Area Heritage & Information Centre

Summer 2012



LUNCHTIME TALKS LAUNCHED

The Friends of Corsham Area Heritage Centre launched its monthly Lunchtime Talks in June. Each Talk will take place at 1.00pm on the fourth Tuesday in the month, usually at Arnold House and will cost only £2.00 (free to Friends).

The Lunchtime Talks provide an opportunity for the speaker to publicise what their group is doing to promote Corsham Area's heritage and demonstrate the ability of the Friends to provide a platform for such local groups.

Ron Smith, Head of Guiding at the Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouses & Free School, gave the first Talk on Tuesday 26 June. Ron's confident and polished delivery, allied to his second-to-none knowledge of the subject, made for a thoroughly entertaining hour for the capacity audience.

The second in this series will take place on Tuesday 24 July, when Chris Coyle of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust will describe the restoration work being undertaken between Chippenham and Lacock. The venue will again be Arnold House, as it will be for the third and fourth Talks, to be held 28 August and 25 September respectively.

Tickets for all Talks must be booked in advance from the TIC on 01249 714660. We will use an alternative town centre venue for the October and November Talks to avoid undermining sales of Cards for Good Causes in this pre-Christmas period.



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Jargeau visitors
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schools

*Corsham Area
Heritage &
Information
Centre is
operated by the
Corsham Area
Development
Trust (CADT),
formed in 2006 as
a 'meeting of
minds' between
the Corsham Civic
Society and the
Corsham Chamber
of Commerce.*

*The CADT's
primary purpose is
to develop the
tourism economy
of Corsham by
offering
information and
services to
residents and
visitors.*

LATEST NEWS

CAMPUS MODEL ON SHOW AT ARNOLD HOUSE

Following its excursion to the Diamond Jubilee Celebration Event in Salisbury on 1 May - where it took centre-stage in the Corsham Area Board's "jousting tent" - the Campus model is now back in Corsham.

The Friends have provided it with a temporary home in their Heritage Room. It now enjoys enhanced labelling so that you can better appreciate where the Campus is to be located and the nature of the services it will provide.



Planning Consent was granted on 16 May, since when ground works have been much in evidence. The model will hopefully be the focal point for our Open Day in the autumn. We hope to have representatives of the project team on hand to answer your questions at that time.

We don't know how long the model will be with us - so grab the opportunity to drop into the Area Heritage Centre to view it in this convenient location.

FRIENDS PROGRESS REPORT

The Friends of Corsham Area Heritage Centre goes from strength to strength. Signed-up membership approaches 100 and the organisation is gaining a reputation for getting things done.

Collaboration with other groups interested in celebrating the heritage of the Corsham Area is essential. Acting as the Booking Office for the Civic Society's 4-day HODs festival is part of this.

Meanwhile, the Friends are devising a range of benefits for members, including an opportunity to attend a preview of the upcoming Open Day.



WORKING WITH CMAS SUPPORT

Having been successful with an application to the History Centre-based Conservation & Museums Advisory Service (CMAS), the Friends have been putting this specialist support to good use.

Members of the Friends have already attended an Accessing Funding event in Bath. The CMAS input for the Open Day is anticipated to be especially valuable.

THE BEST OF CORSHAM FOR HER MAJESTY'S HAMPER

We were honoured to be included in the Corsham Town marquee when Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh visited Salisbury as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on Tuesday 1 May in Salisbury's Cathedral Close.

The Friends assembled a new display depicting Corsham's historical association with quarrying, wool-processing, the military and Brunel for the event. It now stands in our Heritage Room.



Each town was asked to provide an item for a hamper for Her Majesty, reflecting 'the wealth of Wiltshire'. This was an opportunity for Cheryl and Beryl, our Job Share Managers, to contact their local produce suppliers and ask if they could make a suitable donation.

The results were a spectacular crown, made entirely of chocolate by the Corsham company Lick the Spoon (see photo), and several jars of scrumptious marmalade, made by another Corsham company, Annie's Kitchen. These were taken to Salisbury and were gratefully received as Corsham's contribution to the Wiltshire hamper.

CADT IN THE NEWS

The CADT team were recently nominated for the *Gazette & Herald's* Doughnut Day award. A photographer and bag of Sainsbury's doughnuts arrived on our doorstep and we featured in the next Thursday's edition (see photo).



TASTY TREAT: Corsham Heritage Centre's team with their doughnuts PICTURE: PAUL MORRIS (39312)

We also made BBC Wiltshire Radio twice in one week in April: once on their *Morning Programme*, when Marie Lennon recorded a piece in the Heritage Room, and again when Jonathon Fido conducted a live broadcast for the *Mid-Morning Programme*.

NEW CORSHAM GHOST WALKS LAUNCHED

A monthly series of Ghost Walks launches on Saturday 29 September, meeting outside the Flemish Weaver in the High Street and lasting for approximately one hour. Tickets cost £4.00 and must be booked in advance from the TIC on 01249 714660.

JARGEAU COMES TO CORSHAM

Earlier this year, we were asked by the Corsham Twinning Association to assist in the hosting of a recent visit to Corsham by a group of 50 under 10 year-olds from our twin-town, Jargeau.

Our role was to be the ‘heritage specialists’ and to lead one of the two sub-groups into which the 50 were to be split on a tour to view what Corsham has to offer. We also sourced the ideal photographer for the occasion, Joe McNeilage, and offered our help in consuming the generous lunch which had been assembled for the guests - and put together six “Corsham Visitor Packs” for them in recompense.



The Corsham tour occupied a good two hours and took in parts of the town which do not often encounter a crocodile of French students. The visitors were suitably tired at the end of it. It was as well that Joe held his photoshoot at the outset!

LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS SALUTE THE QUEEN

We have just concluded a highly rewarding project. A collection of pictures depicting the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, as drawn/painted by children at our local primary schools, has been assembled and bound into a book.

The book has now been sent to Her Majesty. The submission was accompanied by a letter signed by our Patron, Tom Brakspear. Our photograph, by Joe McNeilage, shows Tom being presented with the book by members of Broadwood Primary School’s Jammy Doughnut Party which came out top in their recent elections.



BATH SCHOOLCHILDREN VISIT ARNOLD HOUSE

Some 25 children aged 8-10 recently spent a morning in our Wool Room to learn about wool-processing as once practised hereabouts. The Corsham Knitting Group lent a hand and our spinning wheel was pressed into service.

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